

NSC BRIEFING

~~SECRET~~

3 June 1954

Approved For Release 2002/03/28 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000300030008-3

CRISIS IN EAST PAKISTAN

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I. Current Situation:

- A. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali (30 May)
dismissed East Pakistan provincial
government--instituted "governor's rule"
under tough, able defense secretary Mirza.
- B. Troops patrolling cities--wave of arrests
set off by 15 May riots continuing,
include Huq, head East Pakistan cabinet.
- C. Press reports new jute mill riots.

II. Background:

- A. Governor's rule imposed for three reasons:
 - 1. Huq unable maintain order.
 - 2. Outside forces--Communists, Indians--
planned provoke disorder.
 - 3. Huq "traitor" to Pakistan--sought
independence for East Pakistan.
- B. Ali's move probably justified--though
Huq may be more senile than traitor.
- C. Karachi moved reluctantly--fears
hardening East Pakistan feeling against
central government.

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III. Prospects:

A. Local:

1. Essence governor's rule is attempt by Karachi to hold East Pakistan by force--can do at least for short run--13,000 troops capable keeping order.
2. East Pakistan United Front leaders--Huq, Suhrawardy, Bhashani--under arrest or out of picture. Danger Communists will inherit leadership, capitalize Bengali hostility toward West Pakistan.
3. Local prospect thus calm now--but agitation to gradually increase.

B. International:

1. No effect Karachi's attitude US.
2. But preoccupation East Pakistan problem likely preclude for time being active Pakistani role on international problems.

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